Hoover-self serving

Dear George, 2/3/78

The pages of the FBI's JFK releases that included a few on Ford came today, just as I was leaving to take Lil shopping. I read them then and decided I wanted to make a few notes. On the chance some may be of interest to you a carbon of this will be my notes.

(If you can locate the others on Ford it would help Jim in the litigation, and I'd like to have a copy of the one in which Hoover called him a "toad" on the wall.)

62-109090- Not Recorded, W.S.Sullivan to A.H. Belmont 5/13/64, subject Angleton, etc.: That the first graf took attention I can understand but I think there are significant indications in the second, like Angleton (sic) did not have the complete answer worked out on suggestions for safeguarding the President. After almost a half year?

As are some of the other copies, this one was also directed to the Soviet Section. I wonder why. It has no Soviet content and no apparent relevance.

62-109090 - Not Recorded 6/30/64 Rankin to Hoover on the Oswald Diary leak: the resolution Ford proposed included an investigation of that leak and of any of the future but it did not propose any of the past be investigated. That made it safer for the FBI and others.

I'm sure that before this time the story of that leak was known. It is where O'Leary fingered Hugh Aynesworth, who may not have required fingering. Bill Alexander let Aynesworth have it. He got either $4,000 or $5,000 from LIFE, which then had to pay Marina either $20,000 or $25,000 to be safe and secure.

(An unrelated page 2 of a Ruby memo is attached.)

62-109090- Not recorded 4/17/64 Hoover to Ford, on party Ford'd attended at DeLoach's home and using tha as excuse to flatter Ford: This appears to be from Section 9, the only record you sent with such an indication. There is another file noted. It appears to be 94-40611. in the FBI filing code 94 is "RESEARCH MATTERS. Sounds like something other than normal research. On a dull day maybe you'd like to see if this is where they hid secret Congressional files?

62-109090 (possibly Serial 35 or 36) 12/12/63 DeLoach memo, probably to Mohr (illeg.)

News attention does naturally go to Ford and his being an informant for the FBI although a member of the Commission. But I see other interests. One is that so many of the Commission members did not want a man like Olney as general counsel. (Paul Hoch followed this aspect once we broke loose parts of the executive session on this, with the names obliterated, and correctly guessed Olney's was one of those names.)

It is not from the allegation of a "one man commission" when the chairman's choice becomes chief counsel. That is normal practise.

The transcript of that session reflects discussion somewhat less emphatic than this says Ford says it was.

Hoover's note approving Ford's claim to not wanting any word of the FBI's report out is no less self-serving that Ford's because Hoover had already leaked the essence of that report a week earlier. Ford is ridiculous in his pretenses because of this and the Commission's discussion of it. That was 12/5/63. Among those to whom there were leaks are O'Leary and Les Whitten, then with Hearst.

"Garrulous" is Hoover's odd comment on McCone's passing on a bum steer about the phoney Alvareda Ugarte fabrication that he saw Oswald paid off at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. The CIA was passing on a bum steer even after forced to prove it false. As Rocca did in his 1975 memo to the Rockefeller Commission.

62-109090-Not Recorded, 7/13/64 Rosen memo on interviewing Ford over leak of LHO diary and attached DeLoach memo on his conversation with Ford, both duplicate filings: It is my impression that there was no mystery by this date, that the FBI had the whole story and knew it had no Ford connection. The name is Slexander, not Holmes but William.

There is a case, ~~M~~ whether this ~~oen~~ one or another I'm not checking to see, in which Ford want ed to wave around an FBI clearance. I have it in facsimile in WW II. The FBI questioned Ford and nobody else and wrote him a letter saying he denied it all.

As I recall it Ford also made big speeches about his purity in executive session about leaks. I never did see how his word was better if given to an FBI agent than if given to his fellow Commissioners.

62-109090 Not Recorded, Hoover's 2/24/64 memo to his top brass, timed at 11/53 a.m. for his phone conversation with Lee Rankin and at 12:15 p.m. for what he told Joseph Sizoo, Domestic Intelligence. (Interesting that surveillance of Marina was assigned to Domestic Intelligence.

FBI prying into Marina's personal life, claimed danger to Commission.

P.1-Marina living at Ford's home. If this is Gerald Ford's (there was a Declan Ford she knew in the Dallas-Fort Worth White Russian community) he also was then working on his book.

Rankin asks for the surveillance after Marina had asked to be relieved of this by the Secret Service and Warren had agreed. But then Rankin had worried the Commission with his belief that without the Secret Service on her tail (vice Martin) she'd skip to Mexico.

On later pages the marks indicating withholding under exemptions like privacy are visible. Here the FBI people did not consider obliterating that Marina was having an "affair" with Martin.

Here and on following pages Hoover does not believe the Marina fairy tale that Oswald said he planned to shoot Nixon that day, a day Nixon was not in Dallas. Hoover also does not believe that she locked him in the bathroom. Hover gives his reasons but they do not include an explanation of the locking of a bathroom door from the wrong side.

Inferences the story was made up for $$$$. It is still being retailed.

P. 3, more on Marina and Martin, with marks for obliteration visible -no obliterations on her sex life.

I'm sure that long before this the Marina-Martin story was known and to the Secret Service, despite this representation. My recollection is that the Secret Service reports indicate it began about Xmas, when Martin moved Marina from the Inn into his home, to his wife's strong objections. Hoover appears to have knowledge not reflected in available Commission files, on this, the affair.

The content marked for excision should have been excised under (b)(7)(C). No question about it. (That's teach Marina not to love the FBI!)

Hoover knew more about the Oswald picture with the rifle and more than that LIFE had and used it. (Could he have been putting Rankin on, to pretend that he did not know all the content of all the reports the FBI gave the Commission?)

Page 5- all the Mexico City leads (not described) "fizzle." Perhaps he meant on the question of conspiracy, or checking like of the Alvaredo Ugarte and Diz Verson fairy tales.

Hoover's disbelief that Oswald shot at Walker because Marina said Oswald said it is interesting but his reflection of the testing (over to p. 6) is inadequate. The Dallas police had identified that bullet as 30 caliber. Hoover says only that there were not positive ballistics marks. So, for what purpose are they equipped for such other tests as spectrographic analysis? The only reason for not having done and quoted it is the certainty of what it would show - not Oswald's ammo.

Handling of the tap on Marina's phone is interesting. No Okay from the AG even asked. Hoover says it is his own idea, too.

Last page states she is living with a man - no privacy concerns.

62-109090 Not Recorded 1/10/64 Baumgardner to W.C.Sullivan on "COMMUNIST PARTY,USA COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM." Or converting the JFK assassination into propaganda and disruption activities.

The FBI stated and the DJ argued the point in C.A.75-1996 that the FBI never reproduces copyrighted material. They do, but here they consider buying it for the operation. In it they mask the name of the right-winger who doped the idea out. Probably claim to 7C. But there is no real problem in identifying one who copyrights if the title is available. Here it is. Hoover noted OK, for the purchase of 500 copies and their use for disruption.